Gubernatorial Candidates Get Fishy in Kodiak

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Jay Barrett/KMXT

Kodiak will be overrun with politicians this weekend, as all the declared candidates for governor will be in town for the big fisheries debate tomorrow night. And just for good measure, Alaska's Senators will be visiting too. Lisa Murkowski is on the re-election trail and Mark Begich is making an appearance at Crab Fest.

Besides incumbent Sean Parnell, seeking his first election to the governor's office, Republican challengers Ralph Samuels and Bill Walker will be in attendance, as will Democratic hopefuls Ethan Berkowitz, Hollis French and Bob Poe.

Organizer Laine Welch, producer of Fish Radio, says the tradition of the "Goober Debates," as they've come to be known, started 20 years ago.

-- (Goober 1 39 sec "It started in 1990 ... to lose their election.")

Veteran journalists sharing the stage with Welch will be Margie Bauman and Wesley Loy.

Jeff

Stephan, the director of the United Fisherman's Marketing Association in Kodiak, will be this year's moderator. He says that this year, candidates will get to ask other candidates, selected randomly, questions:

-- (Goober 2 32 sec "And of course nobody ... about the fishing industry.")

As a Kodiak-only added feature, Welch says there is a new segment called "From the Frying Pan into the Fire."

-- (Goober 3 40 sec "We've asked the candidates ... the candidates a question.")

Welch says the debate's single focus on fisheries issues is designed to make them think about the industry:

-- (Goober 4 46 sec "I'm

sure it's nerve ... it's jobs, you know, so much.")

The Gubernatorial Fisheries Debate will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. tomorrow (Friday) night, at the Gerald C. Wilson Auditorium, and will be broadcast live here on KMXT, and on many Alaska public radio stations.

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